

# Specimen Collection and Submission Instructions

## Non-variola Orthopox (Version 1)

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Specimen Type	Collection Time	Collection Frequency	Collection Procedures	Transport Media	Shipping & Handling (S&H)**
Vesicle/ pustule skin or crust	At illness.  For optimal isolation, collect within 72 hours of symptom onset.	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sanitize skin with alcohol wipe and allow to dry completely.</li> <li>Open and remove the top of the lesion using a sterile scalpel or 26-gauge needle.</li> <li>Place the vesicle or pustule skin “roof” in a dry, sterile 1.5-2 mL screw-capped plastic vial with O-ring.</li> </ul>	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Transport device:</b> See Collection Procedures for corresponding Specimen Type.</li> <li><b>Rejection criteria:</b> Not following listed Collection and/or Shipping Methods.</li> <li><b>Transport:</b> If transported within 24 hours of collection, package specimens from a single patient on refrigerated (2°C to 8°C) gel packs. If transported after 24 hours of collection, store and ship specimens on dry ice or at -70°C to -20°C. (Serum may be frozen only if aliquoted.)</li> <li><b>Storage:</b> Refrigerate (2°C to 8°C). If transported after 24 hours of collection, store specimens on dry ice or at -70°C to -20°C. (Serum may be frozen only if aliquoted.)</li> </ul>
Swab of vesicular or pustular fluid*			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect only using synthetic tip swabs (ex. Dacron, Nylon, Polyester) with non-wooden shaft.</li> <li>Swab the base of an un-roofed lesion, and place in a sterile screw-capped plastic vial with O-ring.</li> <li>Break off swab handle and screw on cap.</li> <li>DO NOT add transport medium to the vial.</li> </ul>	NA	
Punch Biopsy			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use a 3.5- or 4-mm punch biopsy device to sample an entire lesion.</li> <li>Bisect the biopsied material, using sterile scissors or scalpel.</li> <li>Place half of the biopsied material in formalin for histopathologic and immunohistochemical evaluation.</li> <li>Place the other half of the biopsied material DRY in a sterile (1.5 - 2 mL) screw-capped plastic vial with O-ring (DO NOT add transport medium).</li> </ul>	Formalin <b>or</b> No Transport Medium (see Collection Method)	
Serum			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draw blood specimens using 10 cc red or red/gray marble topped serum separator tubes with clot activator.</li> <li>If possible, centrifuge specimen to separate serum from blood clot, and send only serum (significant hemolysis typically occurs if serum is not separated from red blood cells on-site, prior to shipment).</li> <li>Minimum volume: at least 1 mL of serum.</li> <li>Serum may be frozen (-70°C to -20°C) if aliquoted; otherwise store at 2°C to 8°C.</li> </ul>	NA	

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### **General Rejection Criteria (for additional details, see S&H)**

- Unaccepted specimen type.
- Not refrigerated or frozen properly.
- Insufficient specimen volume.
- Leaky specimen.
- Swab on wooden shaft.
- Did not obtain LHJ or DOH CDE approval.
- Failure to follow specific S&H requirements.

#### **NOTE:**

Specimens will not be processed until ALL of the following information are provided on requisition form:

- Patient name, patient's county of residence, and second identifier.
- Two matching identifiers on both the tube and the laboratory requisition form.
- Specimen type, date of collection, and test requested.
- Submitter name, address, and telephone/FAX numbers.

### **Collection kit availability**

Not available.

### **Comments**